

RE: Public Hearing Richmond, VA February 27, 2003

I am not able to attend the above scheduled public hearing but want to provide comment regarding the current FCC rules regarding Broadcast Ownership Rules.

What is most important to me is having a broad and diverse spectrum of view point offered through media channels. We currently enjoy an independent local newspaper in Fredericksburg, Free Lance Star. Though I may not always agree on editorial content, it does offer a refreshingly local perspective to the important news in the area.

Efficiency of markets are NOT driven by consideration of democratic principals but rather on economic formulas. America's Founding Fathers recognized the importance of having an open forum to express concerns, to voice dissent, to express ideas. This freedom of expression is so fundamental to Democracy that it is enshrined in the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment.

I do not support the elimination or weakening of the current Broadcast Ownership safeguards that are in place. The more the U.S. media is consolidated for the sake of market efficiency, the more we reduce the diversity opinion and freedom of expression. Democracy is not always an "efficient" system and should be not be measured by market theories of (ROI) return on investments. Democracy thrives on the open discussion and consideration of many viewpoints.

Thank-you for your considerations.

Sincerely,

Linda Carr Muller